

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY: P:ARAPHEL

APPROVED BY: P:ARAPHEL

S/S:MR. MOFFAT

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 243338

EXDIS TOSEC 729

FOLLOWING REPEAT BERLIN 30 SENT ACTION SECSTATE
NOVEMBER 4TH:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 30

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS AMBASSADOR COOPER

EO11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GE, US

SUBJECT: OPENING OF EMBASSY

REF: STATE 240410

1. IN COMPLIANCE WITH REFTTEL, I ASKED FOR AN APPOINTMENT
ON NOVEMBER 4 WITH KIENER OF FOREIGN MINISTRY'S PROTOCOL
SECTION (BERLIN 7). BEFORE KIENER COULD REPLY, I RECEIVED
A REQUEST FROM DR. GEYER, HEAD OF THE AMERICAN SECTION,
TO MEET WITH HIM AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY.

2. DR. GEYER ASKED HOW WE WERE FARING WITH REGARD TO OFFICE
SPACE AND HOUSING. I REPLIED THAT WE HAD TAKEN OVER
SATISFACTORY OFFICE SPACE ON NOVEMBER 1, AND THAT WITH REGARD
TO HOUSING OUR MAIN TASK AT THE MOMENT WAS TO COMPLETE WORK
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ON THE HEINRICH-MANN-STRASSE PROPERTY BY NOVEMBER 30.

IT WAS CLEAR THAT DR. GEYER WAS AWARE OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS.

3. DR. GEYER SAID THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAD RECEIVED A TELEGRAM FROM WASHINGTON STATING THAT WE WISHED TO POSTPONE THE OPENING OF OUR EMBASSY. DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER GRUNERT HAD ASKED HIM TO RAISE THIS SUBJECT WITH ME. IT HAD BEEN THE GDR'S UNDERSTANDING THAT WE WOULD BE OPENING OUR EMBASSY SOMETIME IN NOVEMBER, AND DR. GEYER WISHED TO KNOW WHETHER THERE WERE PROBLEMS THAT THE GDR DID NOT KNOW ABOUT.

4. I REPLIED THAT THERE WERE NONE. WE HAD BEEN GETTING GOOD COOPERATION FROM GDR DIPLOMATIC SERVICES OFFICE (DLA) PEOPLE FROM LOEFFLER ON DOWN. HOWEVER, WE NOW BELIEVED IT DESIRABLE AND PROPER TO OPEN OUR EMBASSY AT THE TIME OUR AMBASSADOR IS ACCREDITED. WE EXPECTED AMBASSADOR COOPER TO ARRIVE ON DECEMBER 3, AND HOPED THAT HE COULD PRESENT HIS CREDENTIALS AS SOON THEREAFTER AS POSSIBLE, PERHAPS IN A MATTER OF DAYS. DR. GEYER SAID THIS WOULD TAKE TWO WEEKS, AND WE SHOULD THUS PLAN FOR THE PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS DURING THE PERIOD DECEMBER 15-20. HE SAID DR. GRUNERT WOULD PREFER THAT WE OPEN OUR EMBASSY EARLIER AS PLANNED, AND I REPLIED THAT WE HAD CONCLUDED IT BEST TO HAVE AMBASSADOR COOPER OPEN THE EMBASSY.

5. DR. GEYER THEN SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO LEAVE AN "INFORMAL" REQUEST WITH ME. GDR AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE SIEBER IS "SITTING ON HIS TRUNKS." HE PLANS TO LEAVE FOR WASHINGTON NOVEMBER 21, ARRIVING THE FOLLOWING DAY. THE GDR, RECOGNIZING THAT WE HAVE AGREED TO PROCEED WITH THE OPENING OF EMBASSIES ON THE BASIS OF RECIPROCITY, WOULD NEVERTHELESS LIKE TO HAVE CHARGE-DESIGNATE ELM OPEN THEIR EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON ON NOVEMBER 11 TO ASSIST THEIR AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE. WOULD WE AGREE? I REPLIED THAT I WOULD PASS THIS REQUEST TO THE DEPARTMENT, AND REPORT ITS RESPONSE TO HIM PROMPTLY.

6. COMMENT. I FORESEE NO FURTHER OBJECTION FROM THE GDR
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TO OUR PROCEEDING WITH THE OPENING OF OUR EMBASSY IN THE MANNER ENVISIONED IN REFTEL. ONLY THE DEPARTMENT CAN JUDGE THE MATTER OF RECIPROCITY, BUT IF WE COULD BEND A LITTLE AND ACCEDE TO DR. GEYER'S REQUEST THIS WOULD BE A GOOD AND PERHAPS EVEN USEFUL GUESTURE.GROVE

UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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